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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT
MONDAY, JANUARY 24, 2005

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE
THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Kurdish leaders agree with US on Kirkuk - Hurriyet
Bush inauguration speech a religious disguise for US plans -
Aksam 1/23
Rumsfeld establishes his own intelligence service - Milliyet
Straw warns that UK won't join a US attack against Iran -
Aksam
Palestinian radicals ready for cease-fire - Aksam 1/23
EU to buy `TRNC' goods - Sabah

OPINION MAKERS

Zarkawi declares war on Iraqi general elections - Radikal
El-Hakim: Sunnis can't be excluded from elections - Zaman
1/23
Rebels attack Turkish convoy near Baghdad - Cumhuriyet 1/23
`Chemical Ali' to be tried in Halabja - Cumhuriyet 1/23
Iran warns a US attack would be a `deadly mistake' -
Cumhuriyet
Time for peace in Palestine - Cumhuriyet
Palestinian groups offer conditional cease-fire - Radikal
1/23
EU prepares economic support package for Turkish Cypriots -
Cumhuriyet
IAEA inspects Egypt's nuclear facilities - Zaman 1/23

BRIEFING

Talabani claims to have received US, UK `guarantees' on
Kirkuk: Northern Iraqi Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK)
leader Jalal Talabani told the Kurdish regional parliament
that the Iraqi Kurds have received `written guarantees' from
the Iraqi Interim Government (IIG) and the US and British
ambassadors that Kirkuk `will be returned to its former
status.' Talabani said that a committee will work to
administer the return of Kurds exiled from Kirkuk by Saddam
Hussein, and added that Arabs who had been settled in the
region by Saddam will be returned to their original places
of residence. Iraqi deputy PM Berham Salih said Baghdad has
given the Kurds `ironclad guarantees' that would prevent any
intervention in Kirkuk by foreign forces. An Iraqi Turkmen
leader told the Turkish press that only 11,000 Kurds had
been exiled during Saddam's campaign of `Arabization.'

Chalabi slams IIG, US in exclusive interview: Controversial
Iraqi politician Ahmed Chalabi complained to the Turkish
daily "Sabah" about growing corruption in the US-backed
Allawi government. Chalabi objected to speculation about a
possible disintegration of Iraq along ethnic lines following
the January 30 elections. He also denied that the new Iraqi
administration could fall under the influence of Iran: `Our
elections list is supported by el-Sistani, and it is more
popular than the list put forward of the current government.
We have included not only Shiites or clergymen, but also
secular Turkmen, Christian and Assyrian candidates as well,'
Chalabi stressed. `The Iraqi Interim Government (IIG) has
been unsuccessful in its effort to achieve security, and
they have no legitimacy in the eyes of the Iraqi people,'
Chalabi claimed. `The IIG has received significant sums of
money from the US for its election campaign, and they are
trying to win the elections through television ads,' he
added. Chalabi rejected recent US accusations that he had
leaked information to Iran, and claimed that he had been
chosen by Washington as a `scapegoat' in an effort to hide
the US failure in Iraq.

US Congress supports schooling program for Turkish girls:
The United States has pledged to contribute \$9 million to
support a UNICEF program to encourage Turkish girls from low-

income families to stay in school, Sunday's "Hurriyet" reports. The Turkish Ministry of Education launched the nationwide campaign to provide education for 567,000 girls who had been denied the opportunity to attend elementary school. "Hurriyet" describes the US funding as 'an important contribution' to the program.

Nicosia's attempts for meeting with PM Erdogan fail: Greek Cypriot leader Papadopoulos has urged US State Department U/S Grossman to arrange a meeting for him with Turkish PM Erdogan. Grossman reportedly turned down the request. Three other such attempts have been turned down by Erdogan, according to the Greek daily "Politis." Papadopoulos has grown uneasy over a recent invitation issued by Turkey's ruling AK Party to the Greek Cypriot opposition DISI leader Nikos Anastasiadis to visit Ankara and Istanbul on February 7-8.

Greek navy chief due in Turkey: The head of the Greek navy, Vice Admiral Antonios Antoniadis, will arrive in Turkey on Monday for a rare official visit. Admiral Antoniadis, the first Greek commander to come to Turkey on an official mission, will hold talks with his Turkish counterpart, Commander Ozden Ornek, on Tuesday. During his four-day visit, Antoniadis will also see naval facilities in Istanbul and Golcuk, the Turkish navy announced. Ankara and Athens have recently traded accusations over alleged violations of airspace and territorial waters in the Aegean. The Aegean dispute will reportedly top the agenda for Antoniadis' substantive talks during this visit.

Kongra-Gel leader Remzi Kartal detained in Germany: Former DEP lawmaker and PKK/Kongra Gel's alleged 'number 2' leader, Remzi Kartal, was detained by German police in Nuremberg over the weekend. The arrest follows a request by Turkey for Germany to extradite Kartal. Kartal, a founder of the 'Kurdish Parliament in Exile,' had been living outside of Turkey since 1994. Kongra-Gel chairman Zubeyir Aydar confirmed Kartal's arrest, and complained to the Mesopotamia News Agency that Kartal has always carried out his political activities in legitimate ways.

Turkish truckers killed in Iraq: Iraqi insurgents using automatic weapons killed a truck driver in a Turkish convoy ferrying food to US troops near Al-Sharqat, north of Baghdad on Saturday, papers report. Monday papers report a second driver carrying fuel to US forces was attacked and killed near Mosul on Sunday.

EDITORIAL OPINION: Second Bush Administration

"The Credibility Problem"

Yasemin Congar observed in the mass appeal "Milliyet" (1/24): "The message in President Bush's inauguration speech was very clear. He still believes that the Iraq war was the right thing to do, and argues that those who criticize the war will eventually have to admit their error as Iraq moves toward freedom. Bush issued a challenge to all despotic regimes, and he encouraged reforms everywhere. The liberation of nations has now become a requisite part of winning the war against terrorism. . The contents of President Bush's remarks are such that they should be lauded by every defender of human rights and freedom. Yet there is still a major question of credibility. We really feel ourselves having trouble believing these messages. I think this stems from certain attitudes within the American administration. For example, there was the recent failure of Secretary-designate Rice to answer a simple question from Senator Dodd regarding torture in Iraq by a technique called 'water-boarding.' Rice did everything she could to avoid referring to this technique as 'torture.' If she had had the courage to say what is obvious, it would have certainly helped to boost President Bush's credibility."

"The Coronation of Bush II"

Cuneyt Ulsever commented in the mass appeal "Hurriyet" (1/24): "There are increasing signs that the second Bush administration will be even more aggressive than it was in the previous term. The US believes that the power of the EU, Russia, China and even India has the potential to turn the world equilibrium upside down. Therefore, US policy in the second term will focus on controlling energy resources directly and combating the new enemy -- terrorism. The policy also envisions limiting of China and Russia's influence within their regions. Clinton knew these facts as well, but he pursued a rather 'gracious imperial' policy. President Bush has preferred the 'aggressive imperial' policy line, which has now been approved for the second time by the American people. The US administration will not feel comfortable until it changes more regimes in the region, such as Iran and Syria."